Gastroenterology Specialist Nurse Service

An information guide
Gastroenterology Specialist Nurse Service

What is the aim of the service?
To provide advice, support, help and information to you and your family/carer while you are undergoing diagnosis, treatment and continuing care for your liver disease.
To prevent avoidable hospital admissions by monitoring your condition or treating complications that may occur.

Who is the service available to?
To anyone who has a liver problem.

How can you access the service?
If you have been admitted to hospital with a liver problem, you will probably meet one of the two gastroenterology nurses whilst you are an inpatient. You may also be referred to the service by the doctor you saw in the outpatients’ clinic.
The nurse specialist role is about ensuring that you or your carer has sufficient knowledge and information about your illness to allow you to make informed decisions about your care.

Why have a specialised nurse?
It can be a daunting and bewildering experience coming to hospital and being diagnosed with liver disease. Much of what you are told in clinic tends to be forgotten or misunderstood, and after leaving hospital you often think of questions you want to ask. Having access to someone who you can contact to talk to and can remove
some of the anxiety and hopefully make you feel more in control of the situation.

If you need to come to the hospital for further investigation or treatment, either as an outpatient or as an inpatient, it may be reassuring to know that the specialist nurse is only a phone call away.

As you are often seen by different doctors in hospital, the specialist nurse is the one person who remains in contact with you throughout your treatment. This ensures that you are supported throughout the treatment regimes.

**Our role in brief**

Providing information regarding liver disease, the signs and symptoms; the complication and treatment options available

Helping you understand your medications

Providing a nurse led abdominal paracentesis (drains) service at North Manchester General Hospital

Providing a helpline for you and your family/friend/carer

Acting as a resource for other health professionals both in the hospital and in the community

Providing nurse led clinics to monitor your disease, detect any problems and to discuss future treatment plans

Acting as a liaison with specialist liver centres

Ensuring blood tests are monitored in an outpatient setting

Providing education for all health care professionals
Gastro nurse led paracentesis service:

The gastro nurse (GNS) may be able to offer the facility of a nurse led day service for the draining of ascites. This is dependent on the individual patient's condition.

Once enrolled on the programme, the patient contacts the gastro nurse to say the abdomen is tense and a drain may be required. The nurse will arrange a bed and contact you with an actual date. Meanwhile it is the patient's responsibility to have their bloods checked prior to admission. Failure to do so may result in the procedure being cancelled.

A blood card will be provided and a sample can be taken at your nearest hospital. This is to ensure there are no bleeding or clotting problems prior to the insertion of the drain.

On the day of the drain, the patient will meet the GNS on the stipulated ward at 8am. The drain will be inserted and once drained you will be allowed to go home. Your water tablets may be adjusted on this visit and you will be advised accordingly. No water tablets should be taken on the day of the drain or the next 24hrs.

If at any time you feel the ascites is too problematic, or you cannot contact the GNS, then you are advised to attend your nearest A&E department.
Contact details
This service is provided by two registered nurses with specialist experience and who have qualifications in liver disease management.

Working hours 08.30 – 3.30 Monday to Friday
Please note we do not work on bank holidays

The Royal Oldham 0161 656 1538
Mobile – 07805587375
You may leave a message on the office phone and your call will be answered as soon as possible, although this may not be on the same day.

Useful website
www.britishlivertrust.org.uk
If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Ethnic Health Team on 0161 627 8770

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897

For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

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